

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Official Action dated April 15, 2005. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due consideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-10 are under consideration in this application. Claims 1-10 are being amended, as set forth in the above marked-up presentation of the claim amendments, in order to more particularly define and distinctly claim applicant's invention.

The claims are being amended to correct formal errors and/or to better recite or describe the features of the present invention as claimed. All the amendments to the claims are supported by the specification. Applicant hereby submits that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Formality Rejection

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite in claiming the invention. In a telephone conference with the Examiner to find out whether claims 1-10 would be allowable after overcoming the 112 rejection, the Examiner indicated on April 25, 2005 that it will depend on how we amend "n-k" in the second "wherein" clause of claim 1 into "n minus k" or "n to k" in view of the cited references. As indicated, the claims are being amended to recite "n minus k". Accordingly, the withdrawal of the outstanding informality rejection is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

Conclusion

In view of all the above, clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art references upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely, Applicants respectfully contend that the prior art references cannot

anticipate the present invention or render the present invention obvious. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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August 1, 2005

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